

## GROUP REUNION

# Ethnic Japanese held during WWII will return to Topaz

By **Steve Fidel**

Deseret News staff writer

DELTA — Ethnic Japanese held in the Topaz relocation camp during World War II will return to the site as a group Sunday for the first

time.

Those returning to Utah for the reunion will gather with their families in Salt Lake City Saturday for a dinner at the Marriott Hotel, which will be sponsored by the Salt Lake Chapter of the Japanese

American Citizen's League.

Sunday, the group will travel by chartered bus to Delta, where they will have lunch and then visit the Topaz site for a 1:30 p.m. memorial service.

Controversy still surrounds the

rationale of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which ordered West Coast residents of Japanese descent to leave their homes and most of their belongings and move to the inland camps. Protecting the ethnic Japa-

nese from other war-angered Americans was one rationale; protecting coastal areas from potential saboteurs was another.

By May 9, 1942, 110,000 American

Japanese had been moved or were on their way to 10 camps in seven inland states. Some 8,000 of those were at Topaz, which more than doubled the local population,

Please see **TOPAZ** on A2

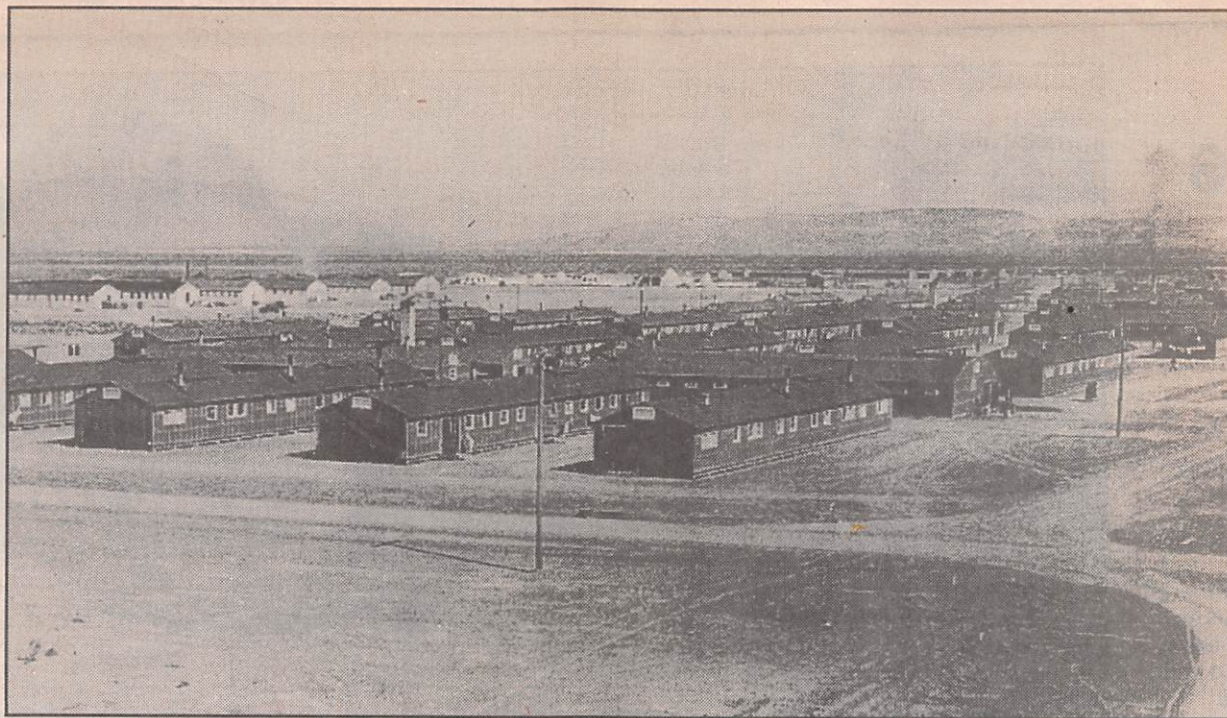
the neighborhood had marked  
v. Martin Luther King's  
day with a parade.

no's single gunshot killed  
nt Anthony Lloyd, 23, who  
iving a motorcycle. The re-  
crash fatally injured  
s passenger, Allan Blan-  
24.

no said the speeding motor-  
werved to hit him and he  
o save his life.

no was convicted of two  
of manslaughter in Decem-  
89 and sentenced to seven





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## TOPAZ

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The camp brought jobs to the local economy, which was still suffering the effects of the Great Depression when the war started. But Delta residents of the time said the influx of people also strained local food and clothing supplies.

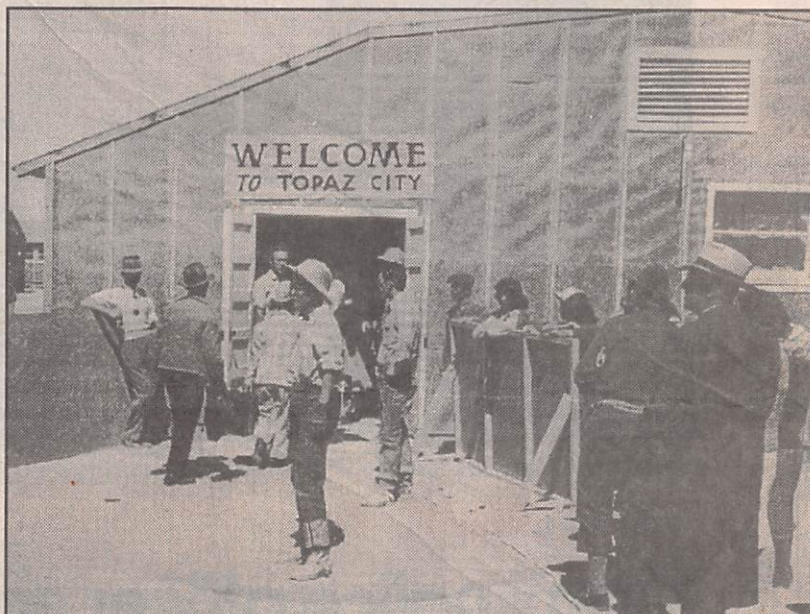
Today, a low fence surrounds the one-square-mile site, and a monument placed in 1976 identifies the camp. But not a single building or tree remains amid the dusty, alkali tract, which took its name from nearby Topaz Mountain.

Most of the people held in the camp came to the Utah desert from the San Francisco Bay area. Many of those held at Topaz returned to California after the war and have held regular reunions there.

Bob Utsumi, an alumnus of Topaz High School, said the reunion at Topaz was planned last year during an observance in California of the camp's 50th anniversary.

University of Utah history professor Sandra Taylor will have a book on the camp, "Jewel of the Desert," published by University of California Press in October. She described the pilgrimage to Topaz as a parallel to veterans who go back to a battle site. "It's a way of saying goodbye; a way of saying 'I don't have to go through this again.'"

The federal government hastily built 10 relocation camps in 1942.



Some 8,000 Americans of Japanese descent were sent to "Topaz City" near Delta during the war, nearly doubling the local population.

Topaz was the only camp located in Utah. Internees were told following a December 1944 Supreme Court ruling that they were free to go or stay at the camps as guests of the government.

But the government hastily dismantled the camp when the war ended, leaving virtually no remnants. Some internees at the camp when the war ended "ended up having to be herded onto trains and shipped out," Taylor said. The government gave each family \$25 to resettle when they left the camp.

Only a handful of those released from the camp stayed in Utah after the war ended. "Not because they

didn't like Utah, but because they couldn't get jobs," Taylor said. The scores of returning war veterans took whatever jobs were available, and a housing shortage further discouraged the Topaz residents from looking for homes in the state.

Many of the buildings removed from the camp were relocated in the Delta area and remodeled and used for houses and outbuildings. One such barrack, used as a farm building, was donated last year to the Great Basin Museum in Delta, where it is being restored with other Topaz artifacts and will be open to the visitors Sunday afternoon.



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Suspended Miami policeman William Lozano hugs his wife, Ana, after his acquittal in the 1989 death

## RETRIAL

# Miami police officer acquitted in deaths of black motorcyclists

*Most inner-city areas sealed off amid bottle- and rock-throwing.*

**By Ike Flores**  
Associated Press writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Miami policeman was acquitted Friday in a retrial for a black motorcyclist's 1989 shooting death, and scattered violence broke out in inner-city Miami neighborhoods. Police tried to keep it

from turning into a repeat of the racial rioting that followed the slaying.

The jury also acquitted suspended officer William Lozano of manslaughter in the death of a motorcycle passenger killed when the cycle crashed. The 33-year-old Colombian-born officer had faced up to seven years in prison if convicted of both counts.

Police sealed off most of inner-city Miami amid scattered but persistent rock- and bottle-throwing and other unrest in two pre-

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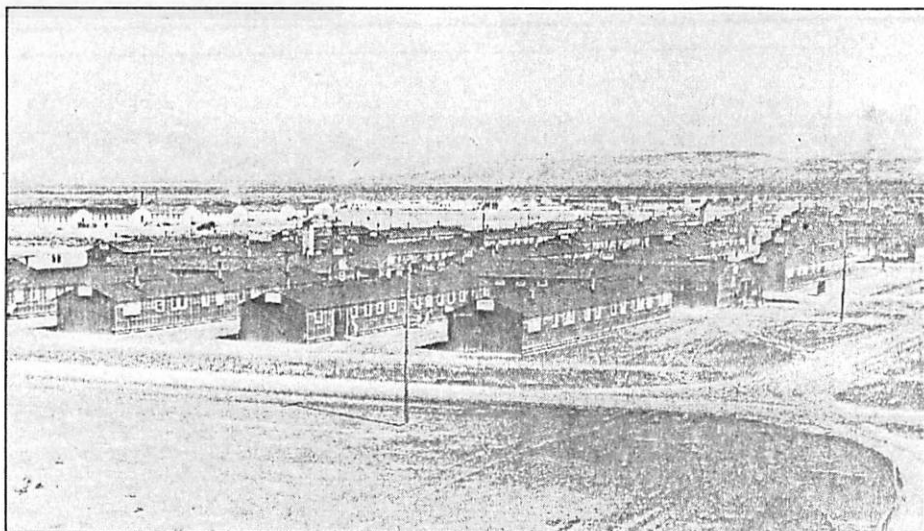
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UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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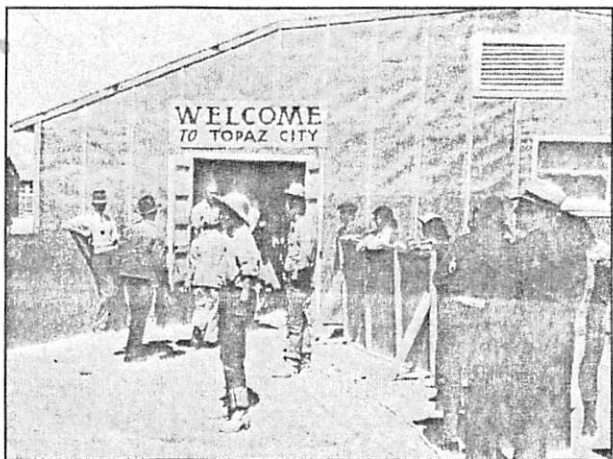
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